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ABSTRACT

Attaining a bachelor's degree is one measure of the skills learned through college attendance, but in recent years, concern about the difficulties encountered by recent graduates in making the transition from college to work has grown. Data gathered by the National Center for Education Statistics for April 1994 showed the following: (1) two-thirds of recent college graduates were employed full time and not enrolled in postsecondary education, whereas 9 percent were employed part time and not enrolled; (2) 76 percent of those who worked full time and were not enrolled in postsecondary education had jobs with career potential; (3) although about three-fourths of recent graduates who were working full time and not enrolled in postsecondary education reported their jobs were related to their field of study, only 60 percent said a college degree was required to get their job; (4) there were no measurable differences among the percentages of recent graduates who were unemployed by field of study; and (5) females who majored in seven fields of study (business and management, public affairs and social services, biological sciences, mathematics and science, social sciences, humanities, and "other" majors) were more likely than males to work in the traditionally female occupations of administrative and clerical support. (KC)

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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

May 1997

Transition from college to work

ED 447 250

The attainment of a bachelor's degree is one measure of the skills learned through college attendance. In recent years, concern about the difficulties encountered by recent graduates in making the transition from college to work has grown. Students, their families, and educational policymakers are interested in graduates' employment prospects and their relationship to fields of study.

- **In April 1994, two-thirds (67 percent) of recent college graduates were employed full time and were not enrolled in postsecondary education; 9 percent were employed part time and were not enrolled. About three-fourths (76 percent) of those who worked full time and who were not enrolled had jobs with career potential.**
- **Although about three-fourths of recent graduates who were working full time and not enrolled reported their jobs were related to their field of study, only 60 percent reported a college degree was required to get their job.**
- **There were no measurable differences among the percentages of recent graduates who were unemployed by field of study.**
- **Females who majored in seven fields of study (business and management, public affairs/social services, biological sciences, mathematics and science, social sciences, humanities, and "other" majors) were more likely than males to work in the traditionally female occupations of administrative and clerical support.**

Percentage of 1992–93 college graduates according to employment and enrollment status and relatedness of jobs to education, by selected characteristics: April 1994

	Employment and enrollment status					Relatedness of job to education[1]		
Selected characteristics	Employed full time, not enrolled	Employed part time, not enrolled	In labor force, enrolled[2]	Not in labor force, enrolled	Not employed, not enrolled[3]	Job related to field of study	Job required college degree	Job had career potential
Total	**67.1**	**8.7**	**12.4**	**5.5**	**6.3**	**77.6**	**59.9**	**75.7**
Field of study								
Business and management	80.0	5.3	7.9	1.9	4.9	87.1	54.1	79.6
Education	59.9	16.1	14.4	4.8	4.8	80.4	72.1	78.1
Engineering	69.2	3.4	13.7	7.2	6.5	90.0	83.0	85.8
Health professions	66.6	8.4	12.9	4.5	5.6	94.4	77.4	84.6
Public affairs/social services	70.3	9.0	9.2	5.0	6.5	73.5	53.0	71.6
Biological sciences	44.3	8.4	17.4	18.3	11.5	69.5	54.7	62.1
Mathematics and science	60.8	8.5	14.9	9.9	5.9	87.1	71.0	80.8
Social sciences	66.6	7.0	13.1	6.1	7.2	57.7	48.8	72.3
History	64.9	8.1	16.4	6.6	4.0	40.6	43.4	69.3
Humanities	59.2	12.8	13.5	5.9	8.5	58.2	50.1	69.1
Psychology	56.5	6.9	19.5	8.8	8.3	59.2	54.5	54.1
Other	69.4	9.0	11.4	3.6	6.6	75.2	55.0	70.5
Sex								
Male	69.2	6.8	11.9	6.3	5.7	76.6	59.1	78.0
Female	65.3	10.3	12.8	4.7	6.9	78.4	60.5	73.6
College grade point average								
Less than 3.0	71.7	8.9	11.1	2.2	6.1	73.2	54.6	74.2
3.0 to 3.49	68.2	7.9	12.7	5.0	6.3	78.7	63.0	74.7
3.5 and higher	61.1	9.3	14.1	9.4	6.0	81.5	61.6	79.2

Table reads: Of 1992–93 college graduates, 67.1 percent were employed full time and were not enrolled in postsecondary education in April 1994.

[1] Includes only those who worked full time and who were not enrolled in postsecondary education.

[2] Includes persons who worked full time or part time or who were unemployed.

[3] Includes persons who were not in the work force or who were unemployed.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

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U.S. Department of Education

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

NCES 96-929

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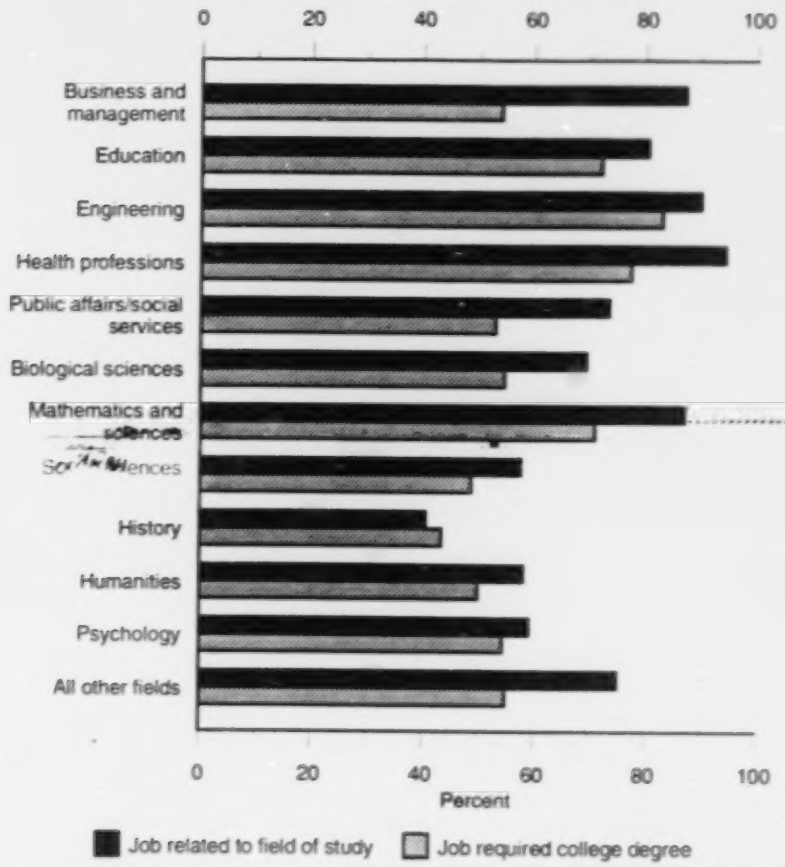
Percentage of 1992-93 college graduates working full time and not enrolled in postsecondary education whose job was related to their field of study, and the percentage of those whose job required a college degree: April 1994



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

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